

Issue 176, Autumn 2021

TROUT FISHER

New Zealand's dedicated trout fishing magazine



EURO-KIWI

THE 99% RIG

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

A FEW SPECIAL STREAMS

\$9.90



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*It's just such a fantastic exploratory setup,
especially on unfamiliar water where you're not
quite sure what the local trout prefer . . .*





The 99% Rig

By Andrew Harding



Euro-Kiwi

Cruising the Mainland with Zane Mirfin

Late summer is always the angler's golden season. With low rivers and plenty of terrestrial insects around it's always the bright point of the angling year. This season should be even better with virtually no overseas angler / guide competition out there on the water and plenty of hungry trout.



WATER TEMPERATURE

Water temperatures are sure to rise so an essential item in every fishing vest is a water thermometer, to make sure you are fishing in the best places. The best thermometers are the battery-operated, digital types. Trout feed best between 12 -18°C so the best time to fish lowland rivers in mid-summer is often in the mornings.

Any time water is over 20°C you are pretty much wasting your time. Sure, we've caught trout in warmer water but fishing water that hot is actually irresponsible, because any trout caught are unlikely to survive release. If the water is hot, it's time to stop!

Cooler water can be found near tributaries, springs and shaded backwaters. These areas are 'thermal refuges' and once you locate such places they will offer you good fishing locations for years to come. If you find a number of trout in one area, measure the water temperature, and it's a good bet they will be there because the water is cooler. During warmer water periods trout will also move up into oxygenated riffles and faster aerated water. They may be difficult to spot in such places but blind fishing likely water should help to put a bend in your rod.

Fish change their behaviour throughout the angling season and ambient water temperatures are a key component, driving feeding behaviour and your success as an angler.

MORE EURO NYMPHING

Euro nymphing is just another way to catch a fish. As many fisheries continue to decline, we anglers are always searching for ways to be more successful. Euro nymphing is just part of this new wave of innovation and it's not for everyone. With longer rods, heavy wading, and targeting smaller juvenile trout, you could argue that euro nymphing is fishing down the food chain, molesting trout that should be left alone. I see it as another way to keep the excitement of angling alive by exploring new water.

Cameron Reid and I fished the Mangles/ Tutaki rivers near Murchison recently. We were surprised with the efficiency of the euro-nymph technique in often skinny water. We first met at kindergarten close to 50 years ago, and it was very special to discuss how we'd fished the same water with Cam's Dad, the late Blair Reid, in years past.

